

MARKED-UP VERSION:

24. (Twice Amended) A method for conducting a telephonic-interface ticket control operation for use with a communication facility including remote terminal apparatus for individual callers, including voice communication means, and digital input means in the form of an array of alphabetic numeric buttons for providing identification data, comprising the steps of:

assigning a predetermined limit on access to an interactive call processing format;

receiving dialed number identification signals automatically provided from the communication facility (DNIS) to indicate a called number, wherein said called number is indicative of said interactive call processing format selected from a plurality of different interactive call processing formats under control of said dialed number identification signals (DNIS) and also receiving calling number identification signals automatically provided from the communication facility;

storing the calling number identification signals and using the calling number identification signals to control certain operations of the interactive call processing format;

providing an identification number on a ticket, said identification number entered by each individual caller via said digital input means to access said interactive call processing format until said predetermined limit is reached;

storing data indicative of an extent of access accomplished for said identification number entered by each individual caller;

testing said data indicative of said extent of access accomplished against said predetermined limit on access to determine if said predetermined limit on access is reached and further testing to limit access during a predetermined interval of time, wherein if the predetermined limit on access is reached by a particular caller, communication with that caller is terminated or that caller is transferred to an interface terminal for communication with an operator; and

providing a distinct indicia associated with said ticket and co-relating said distinct indicia to at least a portion of said identification number.

42. (Amended) A method for conducting a telephonic-interface ticket control operation as defined in claim 41, further comprising the step of:

storing said digital signals representing calling [numbers] number identification data associated with said remote terminal apparatus automatically provided by said communication facility.

44. (Amended) A method according to claim 41, further comprising the step of:

processing said data indicative of said extent of access in accordance with said interactive call processing format, and utilizing said digital signals representing calling [numbers] number identification data associated with said remote terminal apparatus for said processing.

55. (Twice Amended) A telephonic-interface ticket control system for use with a communication facility including remote terminal apparatus for individual callers to call, including voice communication means, and digital input means in the form of an array of alphabetic numeric buttons for providing identification data, said telephonic-interface ticket control system comprising:

interface means coupled to said communication facility to interface said remote terminal apparatus for voice and digital communication with said individual callers wherein dialed number identification signals are automatically provided from said communication facility (DNIS) to identify a called number from a plurality of called numbers and calling number identification signals are automatically provided from the communication facility to identify a calling number;

voice generator means coupled through said interface means for providing vocal instructions to an individual caller to enter identification data from a ticket,

said ticket having associated therewith a distinct indicia co-related to said identification data;

memory means coupled to said interface means for storing said identification data and data indicative of an extent of access accomplished by said individual callers as well as the calling number identification signals that are used to control certain operations of the telephonic-interface ticket control system; and

qualification means coupled to said interface means for limiting access to said ticket control system based on said extent of access accomplished by said individual callers and wherein if the extent of access is reached by a particular caller, communication with that caller is terminated or that caller is transferred to an interface for communication with an operator.

73. (Amended) A telephonic-interface ticket control system as defined in claim 72, wherein at least a portion of said identification number is concealed with an obscuring material.

77. (Twice Amended) A telephonic-interface control system for use with a communication facility including remote terminal apparatus for individual callers to call, including voice communication means, and digital input means in the form of an array of alphabetic numeric buttons for providing identification data, said telephonic-interface control system comprising:

interface means coupled to said communication facility to interface said remote terminal apparatus for voice and digital communication with said individual callers based upon dialed number identification signals (DNIS) indicative of a called number provided automatically from said communication facility, said interface means also receiving calling number identification signals provided automatically by the communication facility to identify a calling number, said interface means using said calling number identification signals for controlling certain operations of the telephonic-interface control system;

voice generator means coupled through said interface means for providing vocal instructions to an individual caller to enter data and identification data;

processing means for processing said data supplied by said individual callers, said processing means coupled to said interface means and selecting at least one subset of at least one caller from said individual callers;

qualification means coupled to said interface means for limiting access during at least an interval of time to said processing means based upon comparing said identification data with previously stored identification data and wherein if a particular individual caller is not qualified, communication with that caller is either terminated or that caller is transferred to an interface terminal for communication with an operator; and

means for storing coupled to said interface means for storing said data in association with said previously stored identification data.

82. (Amended) A telephonic-interface control system as defined in claim 77, wherein said called number is one of a plurality of called numbers associated with a plurality of distinct operating formats.

89. (Amended) A method for conducting a telephonic-interface ticket control operation for use with a communication facility including remote terminal apparatus for individual callers, including a voice communication device, and a digital input device in the form of an array of alphabetic numeric buttons for providing identification data, comprising the steps of:

providing dialed number identification signals automatically from the communication facility (DNIS) to provide digital identification data indicating a called number, wherein said called number is indicative of an interactive call processing format selected from a plurality of different interactive call processing formats under control of said dialed number identification signals (DNIS) and also providing calling number identification signals automatically from the communication facility to identify a calling number, the calling number identification signals used to control at least a part of the telephonic-interface ticket control operation;

assigning at least one predetermined limit on access to said interactive call processing format;

providing an identification number on a ticket, said identification number entered by each individual caller via said digital input device to access said interactive call processing format until said at least one predetermined limit is reached and providing visual indicia on said ticket illustrative of a specific theme from a plurality of different themes and providing a name or a numerical value on said ticket associated with said specific theme;

storing data indicative of an extent of access accomplished for said identification number entered by each individual caller;

testing said data indicative of said extent of access accomplished against said at least one predetermined limit on access to determine if said at least one predetermined limit on access is reached and if said at least one predetermined limit on access is reached by a particular caller, communication with the caller is either terminated or transferred to an interface terminal for communication with an operator;

providing a distinct indicia associated with said ticket;

prompting said individual callers via a voice generator to enter data;

storing at least certain of said data responsive to said prompting step; and co-relating said distinct indicia to at least a portion of said identification number.

103. (Amended) A method for conducting a telephonic-interface ticket control operation for use with a communication facility including remote terminal apparatus for individual callers, including voice communication means, and digital input means in the form of an array of alphabetic numeric buttons for providing identification data, comprising the steps of:

providing dialed number identification signals automatically from the communication facility (DNIS) to provide digital identification data indicating a called number, wherein said called number is indicative of an interactive call processing format selected from a plurality of different interactive call processing formats under control of

said dialed number identification signals (DNIS) and also providing calling number identification signals automatically from the communication facility to identify a calling number, the calling number identification signals used to control at least a part of the telephonic-interface ticket control operation;

assigning at least one predetermined limit on access to said interactive call processing format;

providing an identification number on a ticket, said identification number entered by each individual caller via said digital input device to access said interactive call processing format until said at least one predetermined limit is reached and providing visual indicia on said ticket illustrative of a visual theme from a plurality of different visual themes and providing a name or a numerical value on said ticket associated with said specific ticket;

storing data indicative of an extent of access accomplished for said identification number entered by each individual caller;

testing said data indicative of said extent of access accomplished against said at least one predetermined limit on access to determine if said at least one predetermined limit on access is reached and if the one predetermined limit access is reached by a particular caller, communication with that caller is terminated or that caller is transferred to an interface terminal for communication with an operator;

providing a distinct indicia associated with said ticket;

prompting said individual callers via a voice generator to enter data;

storing at least certain of said data responsive to said prompting step; and

providing indicia indicating a toll free number for callers to dial from a plurality of toll free numbers, where said indicia indicative of said toll free number is related to a specific one of said visual themes.

108. (Amended) A method according to claim 103, comprising:

further testing to limit access during said at least one predetermined interval of time.

111. (Amended) A method for conducting a telephonic-interface ticket control operation for use with a communication facility including remote terminal apparatus for individual callers, including a voice communication device, and a digital input device in the form of an array of alphabetic numeric buttons for providing identification data, comprising the steps of:

providing dialed number identification signals automatically from the communication facility (DNIS) to provide digital identification data indicating a called number from a plurality of called numbers and wherein said called number is indicative of said interactive call processing format selected from a plurality of different interactive call processing formats under control of said dialed number identification signals (DNIS) and wherein said called number is indicative of said interactive call processing format selected from a plurality of different interactive call processing formats under control of said dialed number identification signals (DNIS) and also providing calling number identification signals automatically from the communication facility to identify a calling number, the calling number identification signals used to control at least a part of the telephonic-interface ticket control operation;

assigning at least one predetermined limit on access to an interactive call processing format;

providing an identification number on a ticket, said identification number entered by each individual caller via said digital input device to access said interactive call processing format until said at least one predetermined limit is reached;

storing data indicative of an extent of access accomplished for said identification number entered by each individual caller;

testing said data indicative of said extent of access accomplished against said at least one predetermined limit on access to determine if said at least one predetermined limit on access is reached and further testing to limit access during at least one predetermined interval of time and if the at least one predetermined limit on access is reached by a particular caller, communication with that caller is

terminated or that caller is transferred to an interface terminal for communication with an operator;

providing a distinct indicia associated with said ticket and co-relating said distinct indicia to at least a portion of said identification number;

providing visual indicia on said ticket illustrative of a specific theme from a plurality of themes and providing a specific name or a numerical value associated with said specific ticket;

prompting said individual callers via a voice generator to enter data; and storing at least certain of said data responsive to said prompting step.

140. (Amended) A method of conducting a [telephone] telephonic-interface ticket control operation as defined in claim 51, wherein the access is limited based upon a limited number of uses for defined intervals of time.